July 2009

Regional Economic Indicators

Government of Alberta

Regional Economic Indicators
South West Region

July 2009

SOUTH WEST REGION

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MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES

According to Statistics Canada census data, the major municipality in the South West Region that gained the most population from 2001 to 2006 was Nanton with an increase of 11.6% or 214 residents.

Economic Indicators: South West Region				
Major Municipalities*	**Status**	**2006 Population**	**2001 Population**	**1996 Population**
Crowsnest Pass, Municipality of	Town	5,749	6,262	6,356
Willow Creek No. 26, M.D. of	Municipal District	5,337	5,412	5,091
Cardston County	Municipal District	4,037	4,325	4,565
Pincher Creek	Town	3,625	3,666	3,659
Claresholm	Town	3,700	3,622	3,427
Cardston	Town	3,452	3,475	3,417
Pincher Creek No. 9, M.D. of	Municipal District	3,309	3,202	3,172
Fort Macleod	Town	3,072	2,990	3,034
Magrath	Town	2,081	1,993	1,867
Nanton	Town	2,055	1,841	1,665
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

*** Top ten cities/towns and municipalities in region, based on population from census years.**

Economic Indicators: South West Region				
	2001 - 2006 (5 Years)		**1996 - 2006 (10 Years)**	
Major Municipalities	**% Change**	**Net Increase**	**% Change**	**Net Increase**
Crowsnest Pass, Municipality of	-8.2%	(513)	-9.6%	(607)
Willow Creek No. 26, M.D. of	-1.4%	(75)	4.8%	246
Cardston County	-6.7%	(288)	-11.6%	(528)
Pincher Creek	-1.1%	(41)	-0.9%	(34)
Claresholm	2.2%	78	8.0%	273
Cardston	-0.7%	(23)	1.0%	35
Pincher Creek No. 9, M.D. of	3.3%	107	4.3%	137
Fort Macleod	2.7%	82	1.3%	38
Magrath	4.4%	88	11.5%	214
Nanton	11.6%	214	23.4%	390
Source: Statistics Canada Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

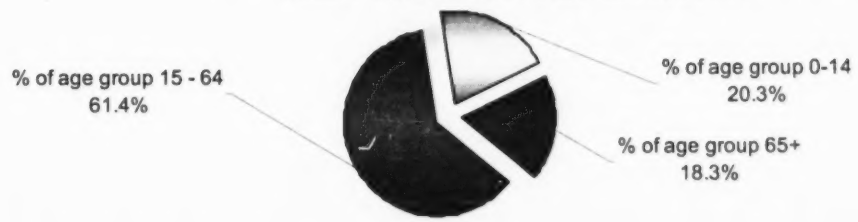
DEMOGRAPHICS

According to Statistics Canada census data, the South West Region's population decreased by 1.5% from 2001 to 2006, or by 582 residents. This region's population accounts for 1.2% of the province's population.

Economic Indicators: South West Region	
Land Area	**South West**
Square Kilometers	15,446.3
% of Provincial Total	2.4
Total Population	**South West**
Population (000s), 2006 Census	39,504
% of Provincial Total	1.2%
Population (000s), 2001 Census	40,086
% of Provincial Total	1.3%
Population (000s), 1996 Census	40,297
% of Provincial Total	1.5%
Population Growth (%), 2001 - 2006	-1.5%
Population Growth (%), 1996 - 2006	-2.0%
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006	

Economic Indicators: South West Region			
Population Components	**2006**	**2001**	**1996**
Age Group: 65+ (%)	18.3	16.6	15.4
Age Group: 0 - 14 (%)	20.3	21.9	24.1
Dependency Ratio [1]	62.8	62.6	65.3
Old Age Dependency Ratio [2]	29.8	26.9	25.5
Males, Ages 0 -14 (%)	20.8	22.5	25.3
Females, Ages 0 - 14 (%)	19.8	21.3	23.0
Males, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	62.1	62.2	60.6
Females, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	60.8	60.8	60.3
Males, Ages 65+ (%)	17.2	15.3	14.1
Females, Ages 65+ (%)	19.4	17.8	16.7
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006			

Total Population by Age Group, 2006



IMMIGRATION – PERMANENT RESIDENTS

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in 2007, 18 immigrants selected a location in the South West Region geography as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application form.

Please note: This figure does not include temporary foreign workers, students or temporary residents. Also, those that selected a certain province as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application are not required to move to the province indicated. This means that there could potentially be data missing due to immigrants indicating one province as their destination and then actually moving to another.

The annualized percentage change in immigration from 1997 to 2007 for the South West Region was -5.3%. The annualized percentage growth from 1997 to 2007 for Alberta was 4.8%. The total change for the South West Region was -50.0% (-18) between 2002 and 2007, and -41.9% (-32) between 1997 and 2007.

Economic Indicators: South West Region	
Immigrants, CIC (Permanent Residents) [3]	**South West**
As of December 31, 1997	31
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 1998	32
% of Province	0.3%
As of December 31, 1999	27
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2000	46
% of Province	0.3%
As of December 31, 2001	31
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2002	36
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2003	67
% of Province	0.4%
As of December 31, 2004	65
% of Province	0.4%
As of December 31, 2005	41
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2006	50
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2007	18
% of Province	0.1%
Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 years [4]	**-5.3%**
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Landing File	

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

According to Statistics Canada's census data, the South West Region's employment rate for the working age population of 15 years and older was 63.4% in 2006 and the participation rate was 66.1%.

Please Note: Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Hence Statistics Canada Census 2001 and 2006 data was used for all labour force indicators in the South West Region (see note below table.)

In 2006, the South West Region's employment rate for the 15 to 24 year old age group was 63.8% and the participation rate was 69.0%. In the same year, the unemployment rate for the working age population of 15 years and older was 4.1% and the unemployment rate for the 15 to 24 year old age group was 7.6%. Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate of all provinces in 2006 at 3.4% - well below the national average of 6.3%

Between 2006 and 2007, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by 4.7% or by 88,700. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of people employed grew by about 289,000 or 17.2% in Alberta.

In 2007, Alberta made up 10.3% of Canada's working age population (15+ years), and the province created just under one-quarter or 23.2% of all new jobs in Canada. Alberta created nearly as many new jobs as Ontario (88,700 vs 101,100), which has more than three times the working age population of Alberta.

Economic Indicators: South West Region		
Annual Labour Force Characteristics [5]	**2006***	**2001***
Population: 15+ (000s)	30.8	30.5
Labour Force: 15+ (000s)	20.4	20.1
Employment: 15+ (000s)	19.6	18.8
Unemployment: 15+ (000s)	0.8	1.3
Participation Rate: 15+ (%)	66.1	65.8
Unemployment Rate: 15+ (%)	4.1	6.3
Employment Rate: 15+ (%)	63.4	61.7
Participation Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	69.0	63.9
Unemployment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	7.6	14.5
Employment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	63.8	54.7
Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 and 2006.		

Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions, for the following reasons. First, there are no population control totals for special geographies such as these regions. Second, some of the smaller regions have small sample size, leading to greater volatility in the estimates. Third, Statistics Canada periodically redesigns its survey methodology; the latest redesign was done in 2005. Because of these data problems, Census data for 2001 and 2006 were used for all indicators for the smaller regions, and data for these indicators for the other years are not included.

** Census estimate*

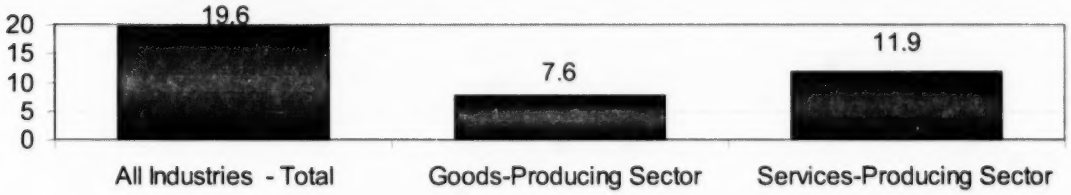
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In 2006, according to Statistics Canada's census, the services-producing sector in the South West Region accounted for 61.2% of the total number employed.

The Agriculture and Forestry and the Health Care and Social Assistance industry continued to have the largest number of individuals employed. These industries are followed by the Retail Trade and Construction Industries.

Economic Indicators: South West Region		
Employment by Industry [6]	**2006**	**2001**
Total Employment – All Industries	**19.6**	**18.8**
Goods-Producing Sector	**7.6**	**7.1**
Agriculture & Forestry	3.7	3.6
Mining & Oil & Gas	1.1	0.9
Utilities	0.2	0.1
Construction	1.5	1.3
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2
Services-Producing Sector	**11.9**	**11.7**
Wholesale Trade	0.6	0.5
Retail Trade	1.8	2.0
Transportation & Warehousing	0.6	0.7
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	0.7	0.6
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0.7	0.5
Business, Building & Other Support Services	0.6	0.5
Educational Services	1.3	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	2.1	2.2
Information, Culture & Recreation	0.6	0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	1.3	1.1
Other Services	0.9	0.9
Public Administration	0.8	0.7
Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 and 2006.		
Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Hence Statistics Canada Census 2001 and 2006 data was used for all labour force indicators in the South West Region		

Employment by Industry, South West, 2006 (In '000s)



INCOME, TAXFILER

In 2006, the average individual income for all taxfilers for the South West Region was $21,455, a 10.5% increase from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that reported an individual income of $100,000 and over was 2.1%.

Economic Indicators: South West Region			
Individual Income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Individual Income ($)	21,455	19,420	17,625
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	30.9%	30.4%	31.4%
$1 - $20,000	31.5%	33.7%	35.2%
$20,000 - $40,000	17.7%	17.7%	17.2%
$40,000 - $60,000	9.5%	8.8%	8.2%
$60,000 - $80,000	5.9%	5.7%	5.1%
$80,000 - $99,999	2.5%	2.0%	1.5%
$100,000+	2.1%	1.7%	1.3%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

In 2006, the average couple (defined as married or common law) income for all taxfilers for the Southwest Region was $69,480, a 10.3% increase from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that defined themselves as a couple and reported an income of $100,000 and over was 18.3%.

Economic Indicators: South West Region			
Couple Income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Couple Income ($)	69,480	63,000	58,910
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%
$1 - $20,000	11.0%	11.7%	13.4%
$20,000 - $40,000	22.4%	24.9%	26.1%
$40,000 - $60,000	18.8%	19.3%	20.5%
$60,000 - $80,000	16.8%	17.0%	16.8%
$80,000 - $99,999	12.1%	10.8%	10.1%
$100,000+	18.3%	15.5%	12.4%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

INVESTMENT

In 2007, the total building permit value for the South West Region increased by 26.9% from 2006 to $81.1 million, more than double the 10-year average of $39.1 million. Between 2006 and 2007, the residential building permit value for the South West Region increased by 46.2% to $61.0 million.

In 2007, the number of housing starts in the South West Region increased by 33.3% from 2006 to 364. The 2007 number of starts was 61.8% more than the 10-year average of 225. The number of single family housing starts in the region increased by 30.7% from 2006 to 294.

Economic Indicators: South West Region			
Building Permit Values and Housing Starts (2007)	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**
Total Building Permit Value ($000s)	81,146	63,958	31,094
% of Provincial Total	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%
Per Capita Building Permit Value ($)[8]	2,054	1,619	760
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 5-year average (2003 - 2007)		45,913	
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 10-year average (1998 - 2007)		39,122	
Commercial Building Permit Value ($000s)	12,325	14,464	4,581
Commercial % of Total Building Permit Value	15.2%	22.6%	14.7%
% of Provincial Commercial Building Permit Value	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Industrial Building Permit Value ($000s)	2,768	3,389	1,153
Industrial % of Total Building Permit Value	3.4%	5.3%	3.7%
% of Provincial Industrial Building Permit Value	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Institutional Building Permit Value ($000s)	5,062	4,386	2,826
Institutional % of Total Building Permit Value	6.2%	6.9%	9.1%
% of Provincial Institutional Building Permit Value	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%
Residential Building Permit Value ($000s)	60,991	41,719	22,534
Residential % of Total Building Permit Value	75.2%	65.2%	72.5%
% of Provincial Residential Building Permit Value	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%
Single Family Housing Starts	294	225	155
Single Family Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)		193	
Single Family Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)		184	
Total Housing Starts	364	273	187
Total Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)		228	
Total Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)		225	
Source: Statistics Canada, Compilation by Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES

In 2007, 70.2% of all business establishments with employees in the South West Region were classified in the services-producing sector which includes such industries as Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, and Public Administration.

From 2006 to 2007, the number of establishments with employees in the South West Region increased by 2.2% or 36 establishments. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of establishments with employees for all industries in the South West Region increased by 1.7% or 28 establishments.

From 2006 to 2007, the goods-producing sector in the South West Region had a net decrease of 4.3% (a loss of 23 establishments). Over the same period, the services-producing sector in the South West Region had an increase of 5.2% or 59 establishments.

Economic Indicators: South West Region

Establishment with Employees[9]	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	**1,703**	**1,667**	**1,675**	**2.2%**	**1.7%**
Total Goods Industries	**507**	**530**	**560**	**-4.3%**	**-9.5%**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	203	245	285	-17.1%	-28.8%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	41	36	22	13.9%	86.4%
Utilities	11	6	7	83.3%	57.1%
Construction	187	179	167	4.5%	12.0%
Manufacturing	65	64	79	1.6%	-17.7%
Total Service Industries	**1,196**	**1,137**	**1,115**	**5.2%**	**7.3%**
Wholesale Trade	78	63	70	23.8%	11.4%
Retail Trade	244	232	235	5.2%	3.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	84	78	89	7.7%	-5.6%
Information and Cultural Industries	17	18	23	-5.6%	-26.1%
Finance and Insurance	50	38	35	31.6%	42.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	40	38	40	5.3%	0.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	125	130	101	-3.8%	23.8%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17	17	13	0.0%	30.8%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	51	54	51	-5.6%	0.0%
Educational Services	14	14	15	0.0%	-6.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	136	134	130	1.5%	4.6%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	32	37	35	-13.5%	-8.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	122	123	132	-0.8%	-7.6%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	168	139	125	20.9%	34.4%
Public Administration	18	22	21	-18.2%	-14.3%

Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

In 2007, 97.2% of all business establishments in the South West Region were classified as small business (businesses that have between 1 and 49 employees). The Retail Trade industry had the largest number of small businesses, followed by Agriculture and Forestry, Construction and Other Services.

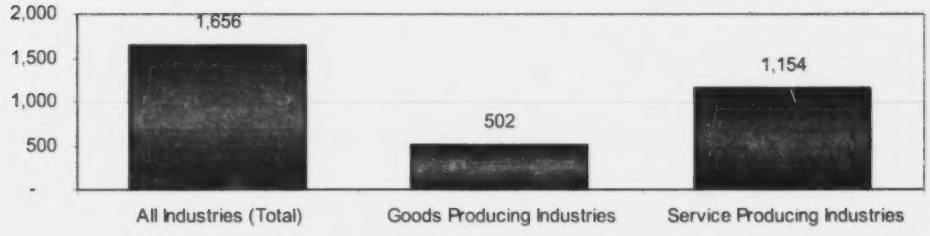
From 2006 to 2007, the total number of small business establishments in the South West Region increased by 2.1% or 34 establishments. From 2002 to 2007, the number of small establishments with employees rose by 4.2% or 2 establishments.

Economic Indicators: South West Region

Small Business Establishments[10] (1 - 49 employees)	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	1,656	1,622	1,630	2.1%	1.6%
Total Goods Industries	502	522	551	-3.8%	-8.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	203	245	285	-17.1%	-28.8%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	39	34	19	14.7%	105.3%
Utilities	11	6	7	83.3%	57.1%
Construction	187	176	167	6.3%	12.0%
Manufacturing	62	61	73	1.6%	-15.1%
Total Service Industries	1,154	1,100	1,079	4.9%	7.0%
Wholesale Trade	77	63	69	22.2%	11.6%
Retail Trade	237	226	229	4.9%	3.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	84	76	87	10.5%	-3.4%
Information and Cultural Industries	17	18	23	-5.6%	-26.1%
Finance and Insurance	50	38	35	31.6%	42.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	40	38	40	5.3%	0.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	125	128	101	-2.3%	23.8%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17	17	13	0.0%	30.8%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	51	54	51	-5.6%	0.0%
Educational Services	9	10	11	-10.0%	-18.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	119	122	119	-2.5%	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	31	36	34	-13.9%	-8.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	118	120	126	-1.7%	-6.3%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	167	137	125	21.9%	33.6%
Public Administration	12	17	16	-29.4%	-25.0%

Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

Small business (1 - 49 Employees) Establishment, 2007



INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS

As of December 31, 2008, there were 20 projects in the South West Region that were proposed, planned, under construction or completed.

The total value for these 20 projects for the region was over $2.5 billion. The largest projects are in the tourism and recreation and power sectors.

Please note: 2008 and 2007 can not be compared because some projects are carried over several years and there is only one cost available for the entire project

Economic Indicators: South West Region				
Major Construction Projects, As of December 31 [11]				
	Projects		**Value ($millions)**	
Industry Sector	**2008**	**2007**	**2008**	**2007**
Infrastructure	7	3	$81.5	$47.0
Institutional	5	4	$150.7	$138.9
Mining	0	1	$0.0	$40.0
Oil & Gas	0	1	$0.0	$70.0
Power	5	5	$523.0	$485.0
Residential	2	2	$435.0	$435.0
Tourism/Recreation	1	1	$1,800.0	$1,500.0
TOTAL	**20**	**17**	**$ 2,555.2**	**$ 2,715.9**

Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Inventory of Major Alberta Projects

1. This inventory lists projects in Alberta, valued at $5 million or greater, which have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are proposed to start construction within two years. Not all projects over this threshold are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at time of printing.
2. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Although, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer.
3. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of the project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years.
4. The cost of projects listed in the inventory are estimated values only.

Economic Indicator Definitions
1 Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population below the age of 15 (Child) and over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 – 64). This is the population of children and elderly that are dependent on the adult population for economic needs.
2 Old Age Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 - 64).This is the population that is dependent on the adult population for economic needs.
3 Permanent Immigrants - Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) count of where immigrants are landing within the province of Alberta. This includes spouses, dependents, entrepreneurs, investors, self employed, refugees and family sponsorship. This does not take into account those that land in other Canadian provinces and then move to Alberta.
4 Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 Years (%) - The average annual increase in immigrants over the 10 year period.
5 Labour Force Characteristics - Drawn from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) or from the Census. The LFS is the source of current, monthly, and annual estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Allocating existing LFS respondents to Economic Indicator Regions results in insufficient data for certain regions (i.e. Insufficient sample sizes). **LABOUR FORCE:** Persons who are 15 years or over that were not institutional residents that were either employed or unemployed for the year. Labour Force = Employed + Unemployed. **PARTICIPATION RATE:** Number of persons from the labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. Participation Rate = (Labour Force / Population 15 years and over)*100. **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. Unemployment Rate = (Unemployed / Labour Force)*100. **EMPLOYMENT RATE:** Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. Employment Rate = (Employed / Population 15 years and over)*100.
6 Employment by Industry - Based on the LFS or Census data. Industry and occupation codes are assigned using the respondent's job description on the questionnaire. Codes assigned are based on the classifications described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).
7 Income (2006) **Individual Income:** Gross income for individuals filing income tax in Alberta in 2006. **Couple Income:** Gross income for people that defined themselves as married or common law when filing the income tax in Alberta in 2006.
8 Per Capita Building Permit Value ($) - Total value of building permits for a region divided by its population.
9 Establishments with Employees – Business establishments are presented by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry codes. Commercial industries are included as are several in the public sector (schools, universities, hospitals, government offices, churches, service clubs, etc.)
10 Small Business Establishments - Business establishment with less than 49 employees and at least one employee. This does not include individuals that are self-employed.
11 Major Projects – As of December 2008, a list of major development projects in Alberta that are valued at $5 million or more that are planned, currently under construction or recently completed. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Updated information is added monthly, the print edition is updated quarterly.

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You can access the Regional Economic Indicators reports and the following related department publications on the Internet at **www.albertacanada.com/statpub**:

- Alberta's International Merchandise Exports
- Facts on Alberta
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Monthly Economic Review
- Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey

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